

This is a letter I wrote to Fox about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election:

Dear Fox, Inc.,

I am writing to complain about Sinclair Broadcasting Groups plan to force its affiliates to air a negative smear 'documentary' about Presidential candidate John Kerry. This is blatantly wrongheaded and is a misuse of free public airways.

If this piece is permitted to be aired, I promise you that, not only I, but as many of my associates and friends as I can muster, will cease watching ALL Fox programming and refuse to purchase any products advertised on your station affiliates. I am writing from Buffalo, NY and our local affiliates are:

WUTV, Fox 29
Grand Island, NY
716-773-7531
WNYO, WB 49
Buffalo, NY
716 875-4949
WUHF, FOX 31
Rochester, NY
(585) 232-3700

I have contacted them about this travesty in American injustice, politely stating that Sinclair stations use public airwaves free of charge, and are required by law to serve the public interest. One-sided programs like "Stolen Honor" do not, and are harmful to our democracy. Please do not air "Stolen Honor," or if you do, please be sure to air a pro-Kerry program like "Going Upriver" shortly after.

I urge you to support me in denying the Sinclair group from using you to further their own special interests.

Thank you.

Barbara Coady
203 Myron Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14227

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.